

much anxiety to the Government  
during the coming winter -

I have not yet written to  
dear Torrey, tho' it is my fixed  
purpose to do so - & I will send  
him the photographs - a proposal of  
which, if you & dear Mrs Gray -  
(to whom much love) should have  
yourself taken in Italy - do not forget  
me - I have not got Mr Gray's at all!

Dear Emma, sitting by me, charges  
me with her very kind remembrance  
to you both - My Annie & I are  
reading together, "How Plants grow",  
& I observe, with great pleasure,  
that she takes great interest in  
it - It is admirably written, & well  
adapted to its purpose of primary  
instruction - May the blessing of  
God be with you both, & may  
your journey be productive alike  
of pleasure & improved health -

Yr affect. U.

Blackheath - 26 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1868.

My dear Gray -

Last night, only, I received  
a letter from my son, who did  
not reach Menton, until the evening  
of the 18<sup>th</sup> with his family - He has  
arranged to take the "Villa Parado"  
for the season - but had not taken  
possession, as servants were not  
engaged - I hope you will find him  
installé, on your arrival; but  
lest it should not be so - I have  
just requested him to leave his  
address - ad interim - (some Hotel)  
for you, at the Post-Office - I am  
sure he would be glad to see you, &  
hope that nothing will prevent your  
meeting -

You, & dear Mrs Gray, will be  
sorry to learn that I have been a  
very poor creature, since you left  
Luffield - My Cough & chronic symptoms  
have not increased - but, rather

the reverse - but the bad condition  
of my head & consequent circulation,  
give me much trouble - My extre-  
mities are constantly cold, but what is  
yet more distressing to me, I have con-  
tinual pains & noises in my head;  
caused, as my Doctor says, by a congested  
state of the small blood-vessels -  
Of course, I am very feeble, & as I am  
not allowed to go out, I have to  
amuse myself, within doors, as best  
I may - The weather is - as usual, with  
us, in November - cold & foggy - with  
occasional frosts - of more or less  
severity - Upon the whole, the season  
is fine, thus far - How strange it seems,  
to read in my Son's letter, of the beauty  
of orange gardens!! & the Sun - & shine so  
vivid, as to require exclusion by curtains,  
indoors - & the use of umbrellas when out!  
I trust that you, & dear Mr. Gray will  
enjoy this bright weather - if not in Italy -  
in your remoter Egyptian tour.

I have nothing, whatever, of interest,  
to write to you; being, as I have  
said, a prisoner, and withal,

somewhat woe-begone - I have, however,  
so many, & so very many mercies vouch-  
safed to me, that I have not the remotest  
cause - or even excuse - for complaint.

I may mention, if you follow our  
Politics - which, I, myself, do not -  
that the newspapers say, that the  
result of the elections, just concluded,  
give Gladstone about 115 @ 120  
majority - The disendowment of  
the Irish Church, is therefore, I  
suppose, settled - & no doubt, a  
change of Ministry is imminent.  
Having seen the practical working  
of the two Systems, I believe it to be,  
on the whole, for the interest of real  
Religion that there should be no  
"Church Establishment" - However,  
as so very many better men than I  
pretend to be, think otherwise, it is  
well to hold, (& still more to express)  
an opinion very humbly on so  
important a question - I imagine  
that the distress - widely spread -  
amongst our poor, will also give